

Application No. 10/019,770
Amendment dated October 8, 2003
Reply to Office Action of August 4, 2003

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A device for a reverse vending machine for bottles and cans comprising a cover (14), for a front portion of the reverse vending machine (16, 18), said front cover having a feed opening (22) accessible from the outside and through which bottles and cans are inserted into the reverse vending machine, said cover being formed to be secured independently of an internal bottle-/can-handling device and other apparatus (16,18) of the reverse vending machine such that the reverse vending machine is operable with the cover removed, wherein the feed opening (22) of the front cover (14), for bottles and cans is without a fixed connection to pipework within the reverse vending machine (16,18) and wherein adjacent said feed opening (22) in the front cover (14) is formed a drain opening (26) therethrough for the emptying of remnants from bottles or cans before being inserted into the reverse vending machine (16,18) through the feed opening (22) of the front cover (14) and a corresponding opening (20) positioned within the internal bottle-/can-handling device of the reverse vending machine.

Claim 2 (previously amended): A device according to claim 1, wherein the drain opening (26) of the front cover (14), for remnants, is formed in an upwards open bowl, whose opening at the rear side of the front cover (14) ends in a drain pipe socket (28).

Claim 3 (previously amended): A device according to claim 2, wherein within the front cover (14), below the outlet opening of the drain pipe socket (28) is arranged a preferably upwards open drain channel (30).

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Claim 4 (previously amended): A device according to claim 3, wherein the drain channel (30) has a generally horizontal extent and is connected to an outlet (32).